LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

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WHAT IS SARRA?

Each summer the Laboratory welcomes about 20 cadets and midshipmen from U.S. military academies and students from university Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs. These students, part of the highly selective Service Academies Research & ROTC Associates (SARRA) program, will spend four to six weeks working with a Lab mentor on a project that has real national security implications.

> "We believe it's important for these students to understand the science, engineering, and technology available at the Lab," says Air Force Colonel (ret.) Mike Port, director of the Lab's Office of Nuclear and Military Affairs, "because these are the tools that can help them deal with problems they'll face as military officers."

Learn more about the SARRA program at **lanl.gov/sarra**, or contact Mike Port at **mport@lanl.gov**.

TESTIMONIALS

"My interest in computer science and cyber has been renewed, and it's good to see the applications of computer science in the real world. I'm so thankful to have had this experience and to have had my curiosity ignited thanks to LANL staff."

—Air Force Academy cadet Claire Badger, who focused on computer vision algorithms at Los Alamos

"I learned new approaches and techniques and increased my ability to tackle difficult problems. Solutions to national security challenges need to be functional. It's important that military leaders convey functionality when presenting the Lab with problems. It is equally as important that scientists try to understand that constraint when supporting the military."

—Army Cadet Mary Clare Cassidy, who researched atom interferometry at the Lab in 1999

EXPERIENCES

Audrey Fernandez

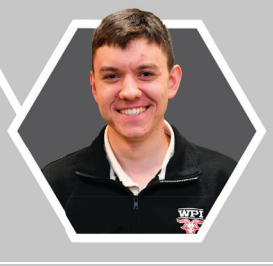
ENGLISH MAJOR AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

"The Lab does a great job of placing us where our interests are and pairing us with mentors," Fernandez says. As an English major who eventually wants to study medicine, Fernandez realizes that being matched with a good placement at the Lab was a little tricky. But the end result was perfect, she says; she's working with stem cells to develop and test how muscle tissue reacts to disease.

Jon Zimak

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR AT WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Part of uprooting for the summer means adjusting to Northern New Mexico's high-desert environment, which has suited Zimak just fine. "Being able to walk outside and go on a hike is insane," says Zimak, who lives in Massachusetts during the school year. Before he returns to ROTC and his chemical engineering studies, Zimak is developing a Lab database that tracks fire-safety issues.



Matt Critchley PHYSICS MAJOR AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Critchley is on a path to become a nuclear submarine officer. As a physics major, he's studying photocathodes, materials that have applications in lasers, but until now he has only conducted theoretical research. "At Los Alamos," Critchley says, "I'm looking at what photocathodes actually do. It's a great opportunity."

About Los Alamos, New Mexico:

Los Alamos—Spanish for "the cottonwoods"—is a scenic mountain town located in Northern New Mexico. In 1942, the U.S. government selected Los Alamos for Project Y of the top-secret Manhattan Project. The civilian and military men and women who came to Los Alamos solved a seemingly unsolvable problem: they designed and built an atomic bomb to end World War II. Project Y eventually morphed into Los Alamos National Laboratory, where 11,300 people work today. Come be one of them, and contribute to the Laboratory's incredible legacy.

34 E.O. LAURENCE AWARDS | 153 R&D 100 AWARDS | RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE NATION'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS